WHIRRAKEE

July 2001 Vol. 22 No. 6

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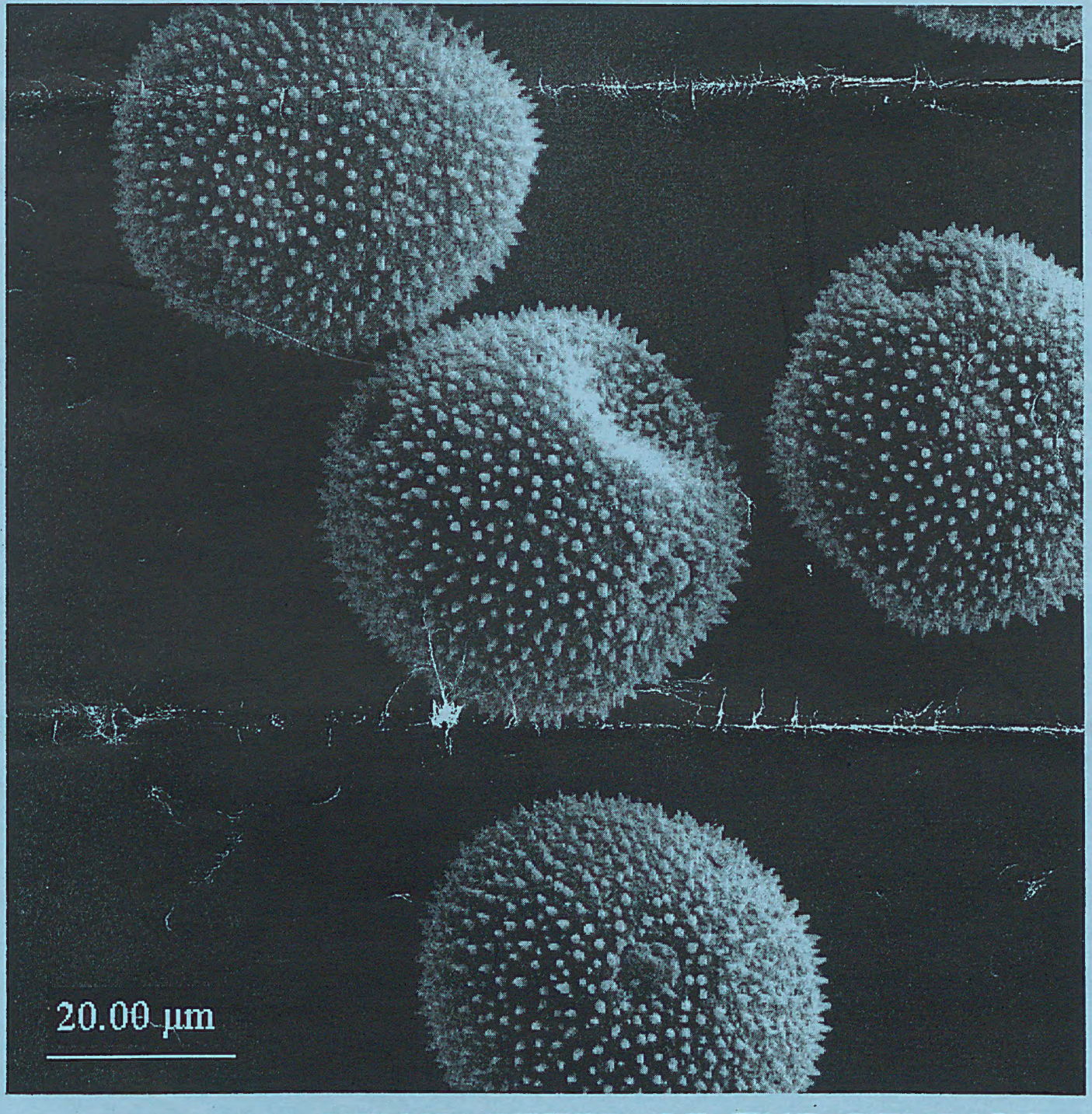

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552

Office Bearers for 2000 - 2001

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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. Meetings start at 7:30pm and conclude with supper. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members: Darren Green; Maurie Lewis; Kate Lottkowitz; Phil Robertson; Bob Ruddick

Excursions The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. Full-day excursions normally commence at 10am (usually on a Sunday); half-day excursions normally commence at 2pm and may be either on a Saturday or Sunday. Full-day or half-day excursions are usually held on the weekend following the General Meeting. Campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active sub-group:

Mammal Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063).
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Front Cover: pollen of *Wahlenbergia stricta*, Tall Bluebell,
(collected from the university bushland, One Tree Hill)

This Scanning Electron Microscope image (produced by Katherine Legge) gives you a preview of this month's talk on the pollen flora of th Box-Ironbark forest. It was taken at the Electron Microscope Unit at La Trobe University, Bendigo and will form part of a national pollen data base.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 22, No. 6, July 2001

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Bird Observations, Carnies Reserve 23th May 2001	Alf Howe	3
Highway Clean-Up	Matthew Comer	3
News from the BFNC Garden	Barbara Pelczynska	3
VFNCA 2001 Spring Campout	Ararat & District FNC	3
National Tree Day	Jon Dee	4
Interim Victorian Plantation Management Position Statement	Serena O'Meley	5
BDEC submission to Perseverance Exploration Pty Ltd re: application for new lease	Stan Pelczynski	5
Letter from the *Bendigo Advertiser*		7
Landscape and Lifeworld lecture series	Gerry Gill	8
Tree Project – The Re-Tree Scheme		8
Box-Ironbark Postcard and Rallycamp initiatives	VNPA Inc	10
Other short notices		11

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editors' Note
I could turn this page into an 'apology' page with the number of muck-ups that have happened lately. This time, my apology is directed to those who got confused by the incorrect date published for the June General meeting on last month's diary page, and particularly to Rob Price, the speaker, whose name and topic did not appear there at all! People still turned up and this either means they never read the Whirrakee or they know that mistakes are not uncommon. There was another one too, the date for Alf Howe's Bird Observer excursion is not the 1st August but the 19th (see diary page, the meeting place has been changed too).
One more plea (other than your forbearance) is for as many people as possible to turn up for the Highway clean-up on the 29th of July. The last occasion was only thinly attended and this made it harder for the few that did come and weakened our resolve to keep this important activity going.

Bird Observations
Carnies Reserve 23rd May 2001

Author: Alf Howe

Black Duck (12)
White Ibis (2)
Australian Raven (4)
Brown Treecreeper (6)
Willie Wagtail (4)
Magpie (6)
Pied Butcher Bird (2)
Crested Pigeon (8)
Grey-crowned Babbler (2 colonies, 7 and 5)
White-plumed Honeyeater (2)
Magpie Lark (2)
Galah (14)
Eastern Rosella (2)
Kookaburra (2)
Noisy Miner (numerous)
Red-rumped Parrot (16)
Striated Pardalote (2)
Wedgetail Eagle (2)
White-winged Chough (0)

When Wedgetail Eagles are about in the Reserve, White winged Choughs disperse into small groups. This time there were none to be seen. This is the first time that White-winged Choughs have been missing altogether.

Editor's note: The Bird Observer group excursion to Carnies Reserve was published in the last Whirrakee with the wrong date. Please note that this excursion is now going to be on the 19th of August. Also, meet at 9am at Eaglehawk Town Hall, instead the advertised meeting at the Clubhouse.

Please Help

The Highway clean-up will be on Sunday, 29th July, at 10am

Bring gloves (if you have any) and your good spirit
(at Seven Sister section of Midland Highway, Huntly).

News from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Garden
Author: Barbara Pelczynska

The last two working bees in the garden were very successful. We have finished mulching area 4 and have managed to weed the rest of the garden. It was also good to see members from the Bendigo Growing Native Plants Group working with us (I and Stan are members of both Groups). We have been able to do so much because we had a bobcat spreading the mulch for us and we had 10 people working.

What we have to do now is to plant during July and August.
Our next working bee will be on Sunday 22nd July, at 9.30 am. Please come enjoy our morning tea and the garden as it is looking good

It is incredible how colourful our garden is compared to the exotic gardens where the deciduous plants stand like "brooms" without any leaves. For about 2 months of the year exotic gardens look very dull but the indigenous or native garden are full of colour all year round. This is especially noticeable during winter when the days are short and the weather is dull.

To me the garden is very important in promoting indigenous plants. Already our garden is becoming famous - at our May Working Bee a bus load of horticultural students from BRIT arrived . They were looking at alternative gardens. I thought this was very good sign of the garden's success.

VFNCA 2001 Spring Campout
The Grampians 26th - 30th October 2001

hosted by the Ararat and District Field Naturalists Club

The 2001 Spring Campout will be based at Camp Acacia in Halls Gap. The camp has been booked from Friday 26th until Tuesday 30th October but we will be organising the weekend activities only.
Camp Acacia is situated in the heart of Halls Gap and spread over a 5 acre area.

Up to 90 people can be accommodated in 15 rooms. All rooms are heated and carpeted. Toilet blocks are at the end of one of the dormitories.
People will need to bring their own linen and sleeping bags/doonas. All rooms have some bunks and we are aware that these will not suit everyone. If you are not able or do not wish to sleep on a top bunk could you please indicate this on your booking form. There are 40 ground level beds available and they will be allocated to the people who are first to book.
If Camp Acacia is less than fully booked, i.e. les than 90 people, there may be meals available to people who are accommodated elsewhere.

The program for the weekend has not been finalised at this stage but will include day and half day trips in the Grampians and surrounding areas such as Stawell Ironbarks and Jallukar Forest.

Please note that the organised activities are for Saturday and Sunday only and people will have to organise their own activities if they are staying for Monday and Tuesday. There will be no shortage of places to visit and some excursions may be organised during the weekend if there are enough people staying on.

If you plan to stay elsewhere, there are plenty of places available, but it would be wise to book early. The closest accommodation to Camp Acacia is the Halls Gap Caravan Park, ph 0353564251 or the Pinnacle Holiday Lodge, ph 0353564249.

Approximate cost

Accommodation and meals –
Friday dinner - Tuesday lunch incl. $ 170-$175.
Friday dinner - Sunday lunch incl. $100.

Meals only
Friday dinner - Tuesday lunch $110
Friday dinner - Sunday lunch $ 70
Attending but not staying or
eating at Camp Acacia $30

Contact person
Joan Pitaro, 25 George Road, Ararat, 3377
Phone: 03 53523632

Further details plus a booking form will be available soon.

A sheet with alternative accommodation (bed and breakfast, hotels, motels, host farms, group accommodation, caravan parks, camping grounds etc) in Halls Gap is available from the editor. Please ring Sabine Wilkens on 54432797 for a copy.

National Tree Day

Author: Jon Dee

Sunday 29th July 2001 is National Tree Day.
The Club has been asked to participate in this important community day.

Last year's National Tee Day attracted more volunteers than the Sydney Olympic Games. Perhaps you were one of them?
Together we planted over 400 000 trees at 736 sites. This year we want to plant 1 million trees but we can't do that without your help!

We all know 'Clean up Australia' - well now it's time to 'Green up Australia'
Instead of organising sites where people can pick up litter, we need your help to organise sites where people in your local community can join you planting native trees and shrubs.

There are two days in which you can participate:
• National Schools Tree Day on Friday July 27
• National Tree Day on Sunday July 29.

You will find lots of helpful information on how to get involved in our National Tree Day booklet. It shows how you can get together with you local councils, schools, community and green groups to make the day a success.

Why not ask your local newspaper to get their readers involved in the day? That way you can get local media coverage before and after the event. We can assist you with any local media liaison that you require.

Please register a site by fax as soon as possible - *(your Site/School Registration Form is available on page 12)*
For further information and advice please freecall 1 800 303 232

Interim Victorian Plantation Management Position Statement

Author: Serena O'Meley

The State Government is currently reviewing its strategy implementation plans for plantation establishment in Victoria. As a contribution to this review, campaign groups from the Victorian forest movement have developed the interim Victorian Plantation Management Position Statement (April 2001).

This position statement aims to set a standard of sound management for plantations which is worlds-best-practice. We believe this can be achieved by strengthening planning controls, improving plantation management systems, instituting government and private forestry environmental reporting and ensuring that the global trading system does not compromise environmental and domestic employment objectives.

The position statement is currently being promoted through councils, catchment management authorities, water boards, unions and farming, indigenous, community and environmental organisations. We welcome the participation of all individuals and groups interested in developing a joint position on plantation management for Victoria.

The closing date for comment upon or endorsement of the interim position statement is Friday 10th August 2001.

A copy of the position statement is available from:
www.plantations.vic.forests.org.au.
(also see editor's note below)

We would also like to hear of any views regarding plantations established near your community. We will investigate these case studies and some of them may be incorporated into a joint paper which examines the current state of plantations and their impacts in Victoria. Experience from other states would also be very welcome for comparison.

If anyone is interested in drafting a reply or wants to read the position statement, collect a copy at the next general club meeting 11 July 2001.

Bendigo & District Environment Council Inc Submission

Author: Stanislaw Pelczynski, Convenor.

The Manager
Minerals and Petroleum
P.O.Box 2145
MDC Fitzroy
Victoria 3065

Re: Perseverance Exploration Pty Ltd, application for exploration licence number EL(A) 4572, Mining Notices, Bendigo Advertiser Classified, May 12, 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Bendigo and District Environment Council Inc. strongly objects to the exploration licence number EL(A) 4572 being granted to the Perseverance Exploration Pty Ltd.
The grounds for our objections are:-

• The possible adverse impact of the exploration and subsequent mining on the biodiversity of Box-Ironbark Forest.

The area subject to the proposed licence contains many ecologically important remnants of indigenous vegetation of which the major ones are:-

- the Eastern half of the One Tree Hill Regional Park,
- the Southern half of the Wellsford State Forest,
- almost the whole of Sedgwick State Forest,
- the whole of the Pilchers Bridge Flora and Fauna Reserve,
- almost the whole of the Mount Alexander Regional Park,
- parts of the Lyell State Forest,
- the O'Keefe Rail Trail,
- the Bendigo Field Naturalists Flora Reserve,
- the Trust for Nature Flora Reserve and the Bushland Reserve along Somerset Park Rd.,
- numerous creeks of which Axe Creek is the major one,
- the Longlea Forest Estate, a unique development consisting of 30 lots which are covenanted since 1972 to protect the natural

environment of the area thus integrating residential living with conservation,
- roadside vegetation of high conservation value.

These remnants are crucial to the long term conservation of the Box-Ironbark Forest's biodiversity because they either are a part of a large remnant area, ie. Wellsford State Forest, or form corridors linking the larger remnants with each other, ie. One Tree Hill Regional Park with Wellsford State Forest, with Longlea State Forest through O'Keefe Rail Trail including Longlea Forest Estate and Bendigo Field Naturalists Flora Reserve and other reserves, with Lyell State Forest and Eppalock State Forest through Mandurang State Forest, Sedgwick State Forest and Pilchers Bridge Flora and Fauna Reserve.

Consequently any exploration and consequent mining in the region will pose a real threat to the long term conservation of the Box-Ironbark Forest's biodiversity and therefore should not be permitted to take place.

- The possible adverse impact of the exploration and subsequent mining on the area's agricultural production.

- The possible adverse impact of the exploration and subsequent mining on the area's residential population. The area contains a diverse residential populations, from urban of Eastern Bendigo, Strathdale, Junortoun, Strathfieldsaye through rural-residential to rural. The presence of Land Care groups and environmental covenants is a testimony that the environment plays an important part in this population's life style.

As has been demonstrated with the Perseverance Exploration mining venture at Fosterville, the granting of the exploration permit with consequent potential mining threats will be detrimental to the population's security, peace of mind and general health.

- Possible adverse impact of the exploration and subsequent mining on the region's economy.

Up to now short term financial considerations dominated our state and local decision making. But behind these financial processes there were real physical processes whose effects accumulated over long periods and led to serious environmental problems. Because these problems developed slowly, they seemed less urgent and so were given low priority (Ecos 90, p.14).

Today we have sufficient ecological knowledge to know that the natural environment imposes just as real constraints on our activities as the physical environment does.

Further we now also have the knowledge that the ecosystem services contribute a considerable amount to our economy. For example,

" In a landmark study, Costanza et al. estimated the value of the world's ecosystem services to be in the range of US $16-54 trillion per year, with an average of US $33 trillion per year. To give this figure a proper context, they noted that the global gross national product is around US $18 trillion per year. The US $33 trillion figure is thought to be minimum estimate; indeed it is sometimes said that the total value of ecosystem services to the economy is infinite since, without them, the economies of the Earth would stop. Costanza et al. argue that:-
Because ecosystem services are not fully "captured" in commercial markets or adequately quantified in terms comparable with economic services and manufactured capital, they are often given too little weight in policy decisions.

Further, they suggest that 'this neglect may ultimately compromise the sustainability of humans in the biosphere' " (Yencken, D. & Wilkinson, D. -"Resetting the Compass, Australia's Journey Towards Sustainability"; CSRIO Publishing, 2000, pp. 202. 203).

On the other hand, the events over the last few years show that gold is already loosing its value as currency standard and the consequent release of it by banks onto the open market is also changing its economic value. In fact the mining industry blamed the sale of 168 tonnes of gold by the Reserve Bank in August 1997 for the fall in the price of bullion and the slump in the

industry's shares (Miner's rocky road", Bendigo Advertiser, 2-5-2001, p.7).

The ecology of the Box-Ironbark Forest is already under stress from forest uses including mining. The extra stress which the approval of the exploration licence will inflict on it will inevitably reduce the Forest's contribution to our ecosystems services. In the long term, this drop will most likely outweigh the economic contribution, if any, from mining in this region.

On adding to the ecological costs the cost of community's health problems which will be caused by the proposed exploration and consequent mining, it becomes evident that the exploration licence should also not be granted for economic reasons.

Conclusion

Gold is no longer used as a currency standard. Its market value is kept artificially by forbidding the banks to release their reserves onto the market. On the other hand, the contribution of ecosystems to our wealth is real and so is the cost of agriculture and community health. As a society we can exist quite well without gold, but not without the natural environment, food and health. Because the proposed exploration and subsequent mining threatens our natural environment, agriculture, health and economy, we urge that the current application for exploration licence number EL(A) 4572 is refused.

Letter from the *Bendigo Advertiser*

Dear Dr Holsworth

Community groups and clubs in the Bendigo area have the opportunity to inform the public of their activities with the *Bendigo Advertiser.*

Community Focus is published each Thursday in the *Advertiser*, incorporating church news, weddings, anniversaries, births and community news.
While space has been somewhat constricted of late, it is hoped in the near future we will be able to accommodate more community information.

Community news enables groups such as yours to promote functions, calls for assistance, and inform the public of your activities.

Assistance from contributors is required to maintain a high quality newspaper.

Use of clear, precise and succinct copy ensures details for publication are correct. Streamlining of contributed copy allows the *Advertiser* to spend more time on stories to give you a better newspaper.

If you have any enquiries about Community Focus, please contact me at the Advertiser or by phone 5434 4482, fax 5434 4499,or e-mail feautures@bendigoaddy.com.au

Community Focus is a free community service offered by the Advertiser to provide readers with better news, with your assistance we can do this. We are here to help you, but we need you to help us.

This is followed by some detailed notes on contributions.The letter (including these notes) are in the Club's files. Please contact the secretary if anyone wants to take on this opportunity.

Landscape and Lifeworld – Lecture Series

An invitation from La Trobe University Bendigo to members of the Public who would be interested in attending lectures in the subject:

Landscape and Lifeworld

Lecturer: Gerry Gill

Issues studied will include:

- The stories which have occurred on the regional landscape and left their traces.
- A contrast of the Koorie and European occupation of the central Victorian landscape
- How cultures give meaning to the landscape
- How landscape shape and modify cultures.
- A contrast of colonial and contemporary artistic representation of the landscape.
- Colonial and contemporary indigenous art and the landscape.
  How landscape provides metaphors for the making of the self: the relation of inner and outer landscapes.
- Contemporary Australian music and our changing sense of the landscape.
- Reading landscapes: the sacred and the landscape; landscape and collective memory.

The subject will run for ten weeks from Tuesday 17th of July. The lectures will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 3.00 to 5.00pm in the Education Lecture Theatre; there will be one hour discussion session immediately after the lecture.

The cost of attending the lectures and discussion session for the ten weeks course is $150 (a reduction to $100 dollars may be arranged for card holders).

A copy of the registration form can be obtained from the editor. Such a copy as well as further information about the subject can also be obtained from Ms Debra Amarant, Arts and Education Office, La Trobe University Bendigo. Phone 54447226.

Tree Project – The Re-Tree Scheme

We recently ran an article on this project and the various activities you can get involved in if you join the Scheme.
Here is some more information if you want to join as a land holder. The introduction is for the benefit of those who did not read the recent article.

The Re-Tree Scheme is a program run by Tree Project to support land holders with revegetation. We provide low-cost seedlings by recruiting volunteers in cities and towns to grow seedlings in their backyards from locally indigenous seed, provided by the landholders. We will also organise volunteers to help plant out the mature seedlings.

What we do

TreeProject recruits volunteers to grow a minimum of 500 seedlings for individuals or groups in each annual growing season (see the time line below). Growers receive kits complete with your seeds, potting mix, tubes, boxes, fertiliser and instructions to take home. We have two distributions of growing kits, in November and January for seedlings to be ready for autumn and spring plantings.
You will need to organise with your growers for you to pick up or for them to deliver your seedlings. We provide you with their contact details, and they will be given yours, if needed. TreeProject can also arrange for additional volunteers to help you plant, just let us know. If you want to grow your seedlings yourself, we will provide you with self-growers kit and instructions.

What land holders do

Planning and preparation
When you decide to plant native species on your property, you will need to plan what, where and when to plant, and do any necessary site preparation. This may include weed control and fencing.

Ordering your seedlings
To become involved in the Re-Tree Scheme you will need to register your interest with the TreeProject office and be placed on the land holder mailing list. You will be sent an order form in July. Subscribing as land holder costs $55 for every 500 plants you order.

Providing seed
The Re-Tree Scheme relies on land holders to provide their own seed; most collect it from their property or local remnant vegetation. Our policy is to grow only local native species, so when you are collecting seed you will need to identify the species to ensure they are local and consider local grasses and shrubs as well as trees. If you are unsure of what to collect and where, check with your local LandCare group or Department of Natural Resource and Environment office. If you are really stuck, try your local seed bank - they may be able to provide what you need.

Arranging collection or delivery of your seedlings
You will need to arrange this with your growers. Most land holders will have a number of growers - we will give you their details.

Planting
If you indicate on your order form that you will need help planting, we will try to match you with growers who are keen to get out and plant. If you need extra help, contact TreeProject in advance and we will organise volunteers for a planting day.

Return the materials
We ask that, on completion of your planting, you contact TreeProject to arrange the return of the tubes and boxes for cleaning and re-use the next season. Recycling materials helps us keep our costs as low as possible.

Re-Tree Scheme Yearly Timetable

Winter

May Seedlings from the January distribution are ready from now onwards. Urban and rural plantings begin.

July Order forms are sent to our registered land holders. Urban and rural plantings continue.

Spring

September Urban and rural plantings continue.
All land holders orders should arrive at the TreeProject by October.
Working bees to prepare growers kits.

Late Nov 1st grower kit distribution day. Growers sow their seed

Summer

December Seed collection begins in most areas for next season.

Late January 2nd grower kit distribution day. Growers sow their seed

Autumn

April Seedlings from the November distribution will be ready for planting. Urban and rural planting begins across the state.

And, if you think this is a great program, you could support us by becoming a TreeProject member! Annual membership - $25 per year - helps to cover ongoing costs of TreeProject. Contact our office for more information.

Registration form below:

Registration Form

If you would like to be registered as a landholder, phone the TreeProject office on Ph. 03 9650 9477, email us at info@treeproject.asn.au, fax. 03 9650 4385 OR
Contact TreeProject's Bendigo representative, Greg Ralton on ph. 5443 8913, raltons@bigpond.com OR
Post this form to **TreeProject, 247 Flinders Lane, Melbourne VIC 3000**

Yes! I would like to be added to the landholder mailing list

Name:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ Code:_____

Phone BH:_____ AH_____

Email:_____

Box-Ironbark Postcard & Rallycamp Initiatives
Victorian National Parks Association

The VNPA is working hard to protect our threatened Box-Ironbark woodlands, and is writing to ask for your group's help with two important initiatives. VNPA is distributing campaign postcards and organising a camp at Maryborough in Spring (see June *Whirrakee*). Our chances of success in the campaign will be greatly magnified ig your group gets involved in circulating the cards and publicising the camp, so we are appealing for your support.

The campaign itself is vital for conservation in Victoria due to the grave situation facing one of Victoria's most important ecosystems. Box-Ironbark woodlands once covered 14% of the state inland of the Great Divide, from the Grampians to where Wodonga now lies, but no less that 83% of the former extent has been cleared. The remaining woodlands now contain hundreds of native species threatened with extinction. Bird Australia recently named the temperate woodlands of South-east Australia (of which Box-Ironbark is a major part) as the number two hot-spot nationally for threatened birds – a clear sign of crisis.

Despite their enormous environmental value, very little is protected in parks with the majority still logged (mostly for firewood), utilised for eucalyptus oil extraction, and cleared for mining. The VNPA has been campaigning for over ten years to have the remaining Box-Ironbark woodlands protected in National Parks and other conservation reserves. If the campaign is successful, the environmental values of these woodlands will gradually restore themselves after many decades of degradation, and they will become ever more attractive. This will help such reserves draw more people and provide unique walking, bird watching and other passive recreational experiences.

The postcard and Box-Ironbark initiatives are made necessary by the difficulty encountered in any such campaign given today's political climate. Political necessity dictates that the government (and opposition) pay close attention to rural people's concerns – and protect key country seats. Thus while we assume that politicians and other decision-makers are listening when we talk about ecological realities, we know that they also have to consider the mood of the electorate.

Given that they are receiving heavy lobbying by miners and timber cutters, we need to convince our members of parliament that supporting the new Box-Ironbark parks will be popular with voters, and will help them at the next election. If we can get enough of these postcards returned, we will have gone a long way towards convincing them that most people are in favour of Box-Ironbark conservation. Similarly, having a sizeable attendance at the camp will boost the campaign enormously.

The camp is to be held at Paddy's Ranges State Park, adjacent to Maryborough, on October 6th and 7th, 2001. Jointly hosted by VNPA and the Maryborough FNC and organised by a steering committee which includes the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, the Federation of Victorian Walking Groups and Birds Australia, the camp aims to provide a fun weekend at which many people will have an opportunity to enjoy the bush and learn more about Box-Ironbark woodlands.

To help achieve our goals, VNPA and the field nats are putting together and excellent program of walks and workshops, with leading Box-Ironbark experts on hand to help explain the subtle beauty and great complexity of these woodlands. We'll look at such things as birds, mammals trees, understorey, lichen geology invertebrates and the history of the woodlands – all the things that make Box-Ironbark such a fascinating ecosystem. We'll add to the enjoyment by having some music, wine and cheese tasting, and activities just for kids. Lunch and dinner on the Saturday will be catered. The field nats may also be providing breakfast on the Sunday morning. For those who don't wish to camp, accommodation is available just minutes away in the lovely country town of Maryborough.

For those wishing to drive themselves to the camp, we are asking for $20 per adult, $10 for kids or $50 for a family. (There is also an arrangement for those who want to go by train from Melbourne, contact the editor, if interested).

Please let VNPA know if you are interested in attending what will be *the* event of 2001, and more details will be sent out as the weekend approaches.

Please consider these requests. If you have any questions about the postcards, the RallyCamp, or the overall campaign, please don't hesitate to call or email JasonDoyle, woodlands campaigner (email: jdoyle@vnpa.org.au)

Our Club's contact for the camp is Kerrie Norris,
An indication of numbers is necessary for sound planning. Give it some thought, organise family and friends for the cause, and let Kerrie (ph. 54478017) know as soon as possible.
For those not intending to camp, a car pool or even bus could be organised.

Spring in the Bendigo Bush

The first meeting of a small sub-committee occurred in May. Contact Barbara Pelczynska or Jane Cleary (see inside front cover for telephone numbers) if you would like to contribute to the planning of this great event in the spring calendar of Bendigo.

Permaculture Bendigo

Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Gravel Hill Gardens office building
65-71 Mundy Street Bendigo

Come along and share ideas and experiences.
Each month we will have a guest speaker
Cost $ 2.00 to cover tea, coffee, supper and energy used....

Fresh produce is also available at times. To enquire about this and other matters, please contact Evan Davies on 0419 472835.

Wednesday 11th July
Energy Efficient Housing
Peter Sansom will share with us the story behind his passive solar designed home (as seen in 'Owner Builder'), and also ways in which we can save energy.

Wednesday 8th August
Grafting Fruit Trees
Tim will look at different methods of grafting and budding. Bring along a grafting knife if you have one and some prunings from any tree you might like to swap with someone.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433

National Tree Day™
Site/School Registration Form 2001

Instructions: Please photocopy and complete this form to register your planting site. Then fax or post it as soon as possible to make your tree effort count. **Fax it to: (03) 9682 5543** or post it to: **Conservation Volunteers Australia, 62-74 Pickles Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205.**
Should you wish to register more than one site, please photocopy this blank form.

Site Supervisor Details

Title (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms):_____ Name: _____

Phone (WK): _____(AH): _____Mobile: _____

Email: _____Fax: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____State: _____Postcode: _____

Description of Site: (e.g. park, roadside, riverbank): _____

_____

_____

_____

Street Directory Reference: _____

Is this a suitable planting site for children? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Local Council: _____

Site Location Address for volunteers: _____

_____

Site Location Suburb:_____Site Location postcode: _____

Meeting Time: _____Estimated Finishing Time: _____

Meeting Location: _____

Have you received permission to plant on the site, from the local Council or landowner?
☐ Yes ☐ No

Expected number of volunteers: _____

Do you want volunteers to be sent to your site? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you give permission for your name, contact number and site details to be posted on our website? This is to allow volunteers to contact you. ☐ Yes ☐ No

PLANET ARK TOYOTA *You make a difference* Conservation Volunteers Oh what a feeling! It's Tree Day

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Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2001– Second Wednesday 8:00 pm

Please check each **WHIRRAKEE** for additional events or changes. If a workshop is planned, it will start at 7:00pm. The speaker will be introduced at 8:00 pm.

Date - 2001	Topic	Speaker
11 July	**Pollen Flora of the Box-Ironbark Forest**	**Katherine Legge and Sabine Wilkens,** La Trobe University, Bendigo
8 August	**Managing a Saline Environment: the Success of the Loddon-Murray Community's Irrigation Salinity Management Plans**	**Steve Lottkowitz,** DNRE Bendigo
12 September	***Annual General Meeting***	
10 October	**Wildlife Shelters and Wildlife Rescue**	**Garry Cheers, Wildlife Rescue and Information Network Inc.**
14 November	**The Landscape Approach to Biodiversity**	**Geoff Park,** North Central Catchment Management Authority
12 December	**Christmas Dinner** At the Hall, Bring Salad, Casserole or Desert. Come early, to sit down at 6:30, and visit with friends for as long as you like.	

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Mammal Survey Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, July 11

7:00pm: The workshop this month will be on "Bones in the Bush", a study of mammals. It will be conducted by Bill Holsworth

8:00pm: ...and continuing with the "bush" theme, this month's speakers, Katherine Legge and Sabine Wilkens will talk about "Pollen Flora of the Box-Ironbark Forest".

The next Garden Working Bee will be held on Sunday 22nd of July, at 9.30 am.
All welcome.
We will be planting a lot of plants, so please come

Mammal Study Group

July 25, 7:30pm
Eric Wilkinson will discuss Hairy Nose Wombat biology and former distribution.

Bird Observer Group

Saturday, July 14
Elvyne Hogan's property, Shelbourne East
ph 54353344.
Meet: 2:30pm Lockwood Rd, off High Street,Kangaroo Flat (car pool).
3:00pm 'Casuarina Hill' Shelbourne East
Elvyne's Trust for Nature property 'Casuarina Hill' possesses remnant bushland of what is geographically the northern boundary of the granite belt. Since the reduction of rabbits due to calicivirus, the proliferation of indigenous flora now accommodates and increasing variety of bird species; for example Rufous Songlark, Painted Buttonquail, Diamond Firetail, White-browed Babbler and Hooded Robin.
Bring: Binoculars, sturdy footwear and weather-proof clothing. If you wish to stay and savour the evening views from 'Casuarina Hill', bring something to share and tempt the palate for dinner.

Sunday, August 19
Carnies Reserve, Tang Tang Swamp and Tandarra area
Depart: 9am, Eaglehawk Town Hall
Bring: Binoculars, protective clothing and footwear, lunch, morning and afternoon tea.
Contact: Alf Howe 54483383
Long time resident of Prairie West, Alf Howe is keen to share his wealth of knowledge of the habitat and its birds with us. If Alf isn't able to conjure up some Grey Crown Babblers or even Brolga, we will surely see a good variety of bird species anyway.

October.....date to be announced
Spring Gully area

Highway clean-up will be on Sunday, 29th July, at 10am

Bring gloves (if you have any) and your good spirit

(at Seven Sister section of Midland Highway, Huntly).

The Box - Ironbark Rally Camp

October 6 and 7
Paddy's Ranges Maryborough

see page 10 for details.
if interested, contact Kerrie Norris ph. 54478017

Supper
The usual arrangements for supper are as follows: members either bring a plate or pay $1 for supper. This small amount is used to reimburse members who purchase essential supper supplies.